The Radiosurgery Society™ Completes the 2013 Scientific Meeting Focused on Bridging the Gap: Working Together

CAMPBELL, Calif., March 4, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- The Radiosurgery Society® (RSS), a non-profit organization of medical professionals dedicated to advancing the science and clinical practice of stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT), held its annual Scientific Meeting on February 21-23, 2013, at the La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California with 450 attendees. The mission of the RSS is to bring together professionals from radiation and surgical specialties, as well as radiation physicists, for scientific exchange as well as interactions with medical device manufacturers. The RSS is breaking down the barriers that hinder development of new clinical paradigms within the exciting field of focused irradiation.

Over 80 presentations and posters were given by physicians and physicists from throughout the world, who discussed a wide spectrum of applications and devices, including CyberKnife, Gamma Knife, Novalis, and TrueBeam in the treatment of tumors of the brain, spine, lung, breast, prostate, kidney, liver, pancreas, and head and neck. These presentations, supporting prior publications in peer reviewed medical literature and research presented at other meetings, confirm that both single and multiple fraction SRS are effective treatment and that the efficacy of stereotactic radiosurgery is independent of the platform used to administer the treatment.

Back by popular demand, "The Showdown Returns to La Costa" featured leading clinicians presenting their contrasting opinions on the management of early stage lung cancer, prostate cancer, and trigeminal neuralgia. Surgical intervention was directly compared to radiosurgical management which produced lively debates, discussions and questions from the audience. Members of the Society were encouraged to draw their own conclusions based on the clinical evidence, experience, documented data and comments from this session. "The meeting provided ample time for spirited discussion and debate of current topics in radiosurgery. The opportunity to really dig into the medical evidence and then to discuss the real world issues around each topic, makes this event valuable," said Douglas Kondziolka, M.D., neurosurgeon from New York University Medical Center.

The Thoracic Workshop Chair, Dr. Deepak Khuntia commented, "This year's inaugural thoracic SBRT workshop, endorsed by The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, was incredibly well received and allowed not only new users of SBRT to bridge the knowledge gap of this rapidly increasing modality, but also allowed experts in the field to fine tune their skill sets. The course format included didactic as well as hands-on practicum lead by pre-eminent thought leaders in the field, allowing attendees to return to practice with tangible knowledge that will affect their own patients immediately."

"Every thoracic surgeon who calls himself a lung cancer expert should attend the RSS Scientific Meeting, not only to learn about the advancement of technologies, but more importantly the potential and limitations of SBRT. This meeting provides a remarkable opportunity to associate with colleagues in a unique and friendly atmosphere - creating a culture unlike any other meeting," said Robert Cerfolio, M.D., Chief of Thoracic Surgery at UAB and one of the leading proctors at the thoracic workshop.

The physics sessions, endorsed by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), consisted of a dosimetry workshop, a symposium examining Monte Carlo dosimetry application presented by experts including Charlie Ma, Ph.D., from Fox Chase Cancer Center, and a session on quality assurance and safety in radiosurgery. Back by popular demand, "The Showdown Returns to La Costa" featured leading clinicians presenting their contrasting opinions on the management of early stage lung cancer, prostate cancer, and trigeminal neuralgia. Surgical intervention was directly compared to radiosurgical management which produced lively debates, discussions and questions from the audience. Members of the Society were encouraged to draw their own conclusions based on the clinical evidence, experience, documented data and comments from this session. "The meeting provided ample time for spirited discussion and debate of current topics in radiosurgery. The opportunity to really dig into the medical evidence and then to discuss the real world issues around each topic, makes this event valuable," said Douglas Kondziolka, M.D., neurosurgeon from New York University Medical Center.

The Radiosurgery Society draws support from nearly 30 companies and community leaders, including Accuray Incorporated, Elekta, and Varian Medical Systems.

"The Society successfully brought together healthcare professionals and the device industry for the purpose of advancing the science of Stereotactic Radiosurgery to benefit patients," said Anand Mahadevan, M.D., radiation oncologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and current President of the Board of Directors of the Radiosurgery Society.

About The Radiosurgery Society™

The Radiosurgery Society (RSS) - a non-profit, independent, multi-disciplinary organization of surgeons, radiation oncologists, physicists, and allied professionals, who are dedicated to advancing the science and clinical practice of radiosurgery. Originally formed in 2002 and becoming (501c6) in 2008, the Radiosurgery Society today represents...
approximately 600 members who perform stereotactic body radiotherapy and radiosurgery in hospitals and freestanding centers throughout the world. www.therss.org.

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